



Health Equity Task Force

September 18, 2020 Meeting

Welcome

This is the fourth meeting of the legislative task force established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020 (referred to as the “Health Equity Task Force”) to study and make recommendations to the General Court that address health disparities for underserved or underrepresented populations based on culture, race, ethnicity, language, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location, including, but not limited to, gateway cities with hospitals dedicated to caring for patients who test positive for COVID-19, and age in the commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agenda

Description: This meeting is review findings from the September 16, 2020 public hearing and *all* stakeholder input and discuss the process for developing initial areas of recommendations.

1. Welcome and Introductions of Task Force Members
2. Review & Approval of September 3rd Meeting Minutes
3. Discuss September 16 Public Hearing & Process for Initial Areas of Recommendations
4. Open Discussion & Next Steps

Health Equity Task Force Members

Senate Appointees

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz

Senator Julian Cyr

Task Force Co-Chair, Michael Curry, Esq., Deputy CEO and General Counsel at Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Dr. Milagros Abreu, Executive Director, President and Founder of The Latino Health Insurance Program

Dr. Cassandra Pierre, infectious diseases physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University

Dr. Frank Robinson, Vice President, Public Health and Community Relations, Baystate Health

Hirak Shah, Legal Counsel for Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr

House Appointees

Representative Chynah Tyler

Representative José F. Tosado

Task Force Co-Chair, Dr. Assaad Sayah, CEO, Cambridge Health Alliance; Commissioner of Public Health, City of Cambridge; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, CEO, Lynn Community Health Center

Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, President & CEO, DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement and Catalyst Institute

Jeffrey Sanchez, Lecturer, Center for Public Health Leadership, TH Chan School of Public Health; Senior Advisor, Rasky Partners

Beverly Stables, Health Care Policy Analyst for House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

Chair of the MA Black and Latino Legislative Caucus

Representative Carlos González

Chair of the MA Asian-American Legislative Caucus

Representative Donald H. Wong

Task Force Member Discussion & Process for Interim Report

- Thank you from Co-Chairs
- Ask Task Force Members to Reflect on September 16 Public Hearing
- Overarching Goal: Address Both Systemic and COVID-19 Related Health Equity

Process for Interim Report

- Appoint 2 Task Force Members to take a Leadership Role in developing each of the 8 Sections of Interim Report (aligned with 7 areas in Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020 plus an “Other” Section to encompass additional areas of recommendations).
- A matrix (see following slides) will be used for this work, and to crossmap the specific input from all stakeholders, building on the ongoing work on overall health disparities and COVID-19. A crosswalk to materials, presentations, testimony, and prior and ongoing work will be made for each section.
- Our staff will be a resource to you (and your staff). Our staff will schedule a working meeting with you on your Section.

1.Improve Safety for Populations at Increased Risk for COVID-19

Task Force Member Leaders (2): _____

What policy actions are needed to improve safety for populations at increased risk for COVID-19, including but not limited to:

Task Force Charge #1	Themes To-Date	Policy Recommendations
(i) Employees defined as providing COVID-19 Essential Services		
(ii) Individuals living in congregate housing and group home facilities		
(iii) Inmates		
(iv) Individuals with serious underlying medical (and behavioral health) conditions		
(v) Individuals residing in municipalities or neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by COVID-19		
<u>Other:</u> People of Color, Immigrants, Persons with Disabilities and Behavioral Health Concerns, Low-Income Children & Families, Older Adults, LGBTQ, etc.) (<i>not an exhaustive list</i>)		

2. Remove Barriers and Increase Access to Quality and Equitable Health Care Services and Treatment

Task Force Member Leaders (2): _____

What policy actions are needed to remove barriers and increase access to quality and equitable health care services and treatment?

Task Force Charge #2	Themes To-Date	Specific Policy Recommendations
(i) Remove barriers to equitable health care services and treatment		
(ii) Increase access to quality and equitable health care services and treatment		

3. Increase Access to Medical Supplies

Task Force Member Leaders (2): _____

What policy actions are needed to increase access to medical supplies?

Task Force Charge #3	Themes To-Date	Specific Policy Recommendations
Increase access to medical supplies		
Other		

4. Increase Access to Testing for COVID-19

Task Force Member Leaders (2): _____

What policy actions are needed to increase access to testing for COVID-19, including identifying ways to ensure that testing occurs in diverse geographic locations throughout the Commonwealth?

Task Force Charge #4	Themes To-Date	Specific Policy Recommendations
Increase access to testing for COVID-19, including identifying ways to ensure that testing occurs in diverse geographic locations throughout the Commonwealth		
Other		

5. Informational Materials to Underserved and Underrepresented Populations in Multiple Languages

Task Force Member Leaders (2): _____

What are recommendations to provide informational materials to underserved and underrepresented populations in multiple languages on available and affordable health care resources in the Commonwealth, including, but not limited to, prevention, testing, treatment, and recovery?

Task Force Charge #5	Themes To-Date	Specific Policy Recommendations
Informational materials in multiple languages on available and affordable health care resources including, but not limited to, prevention, testing, treatment, and recovery		
Mechanisms for Dissemination		
Other		

6. Other Relevant Factors to Address Health Disparities

Task Force Member Leaders (2): _____

What are recommendations to address any other factor the Task Force deems relevant to address health disparities for underserved or underrepresented populations based on culture, race, ethnicity, language, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location and age in the Commonwealth during COVID-19 pandemic?

Task Force Charge #6	Themes To-Date	Specific Policy Recommendations
Other Factors to Address Health Disparities	Examples: Food and Housing Insecurity	
Other Factors to Address Health Disparities		

7. Recommendations for Further Study of the Impact of Disparities on Populations

Task Force Member Leaders (2): _____

As part of its recommendations, the Task Force may recommend the further study of the impact of disparities on populations not subject to this study.

Task Force Charge #7	Themes To-Date	Specific Policy Recommendations
Areas of Further Study		
Areas of Further Study		

8. Other Areas of Recommendations Determined by Task Force

Task Force Member Leaders (2): _____

Other areas of recommendations determined by the Task Force

	Themes To-Date	Specific Policy Recommendations
Additional Areas	Examples: Equitable Vaccinations and Local Public Health	
Additional Areas	Others to be defined	

Open Discussion & Next Steps

Next Steps & Meetings

- Task Force Members to work offline to further develop their respective sections/matrix.
- Our staff will schedule a working meeting with you within the next week. Goal to review the drafts in next meeting

Tentative Next Meeting (pending Member input and potential presenters): September 29 - 1:30 – 3PM, 4 – 6PM or September 30 - 12:00 - 3PM.

Ongoing Meetings (10:30 AM - Noon): October 7, 28 ** November 11, 18 ** December 2, 16
(*subject to updates*)

Additional Information & Future Presentations

- Official DPH Office of Health Equity Requests Coordinated by Co-Chairs: Please let us know of areas of interest.
- Future Presentations